

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-23 are pending. Claims 1-20 and 24 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 9-12, 14 and 24 Under §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 9-12, 14 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,938,414 (Kayahara) in view of US Patent 3,565,554 (Muller). While the Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled in order to expedite the issuance of this case. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue these cancelled claims in a continuation application.

2. Rejection of Claim 13 Under §103(a)

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayahara in view of Muller, and further in view of US Patent 2,693,766 (Seyler). While the Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled in order to expedite the issuance of this case. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue this cancelled claim in a continuation application.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 21-23.

Since all the rejected claims have been cancelled, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP

Dated: 7/3/06 By: Alan A. Limbach

Alan A. Limbach
Reg. No. 39,749

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Alan A. Limbach
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
2000 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303-2248
650-833-2433 (Direct)
650-833-2000 (Main)
650-833-2001 (Facsimile)
alan.limbach@dlapiper.com

Customer No. 26379